

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 27 as follows. The claims and their status are shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide comprising the [[an]] amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 14 that decreases homotypic adhesion among CD66a family members.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1 which is complexed with a carrier molecule or structure to form a peptide conjugate.

6. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 5 wherein the carrier molecule or structure is selected from the group of microbeads, liposomes, biological carrier molecules, synthetic polymers, biomaterials, and cells.

7. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 6 wherein the peptide conjugate binds to cells expressing a CD66 protein or a CD66 ligand.

8. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 5 wherein the peptide conjugate includes a label.

9. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 1 which is attached to a label.

10. (Previously presented) The peptide of claim 9 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent tag, a radioactive tag, a magnetic resonance tag, and enzymatic tag, and combinations thereof.

11-18. (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A method of modulating the homotypic adhesion of CD66 family members; the method comprising contacting CD66 family members and/or their ligands with the isolated peptide of claim 1.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 which is carried out *in vitro*.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 which is carried out *in vivo*.

23-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of modulating immune cell activation, proliferation, and/or differentiation; the method comprising contacting an immune cell with at least one peptide or peptide conjugate comprising the [[an]] amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:14 that decreases homotypic adhesion among CD66a family members.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the immune cell is selected from the group of a T-cells, a B-cell, a LAK cell, an NK cell, a dendritic cell, and combinations thereof.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 which is carried out *in vitro*.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 which is carried out *in vivo*.

32-45. (Canceled)